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221-259



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④5 ISSUED Nov. 24, 1970

*Case 973-A*

⑤2 CLASS 221-17  
C.R. CL.

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# ⑩ CANADIAN PATENT

⑥4 DISPENSING AID DEVICE

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Wisconsin, U. S. A.

Granted to Kimberly-Clark Corporation, Neenah, Wisconsin, U. S. A.

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No. OF CLAIMS 10

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A device for attachment to the inside of permanent-type tissue dispensers to aid in the dispensing of interfolded tissues. The device consists of an oblong piece of rigid sheet stock with an elongate aperture cut into its central portion. The opening is bridged by a thin flexible plastic film having a longitudinal slit through which tissues from a stack in the dispenser are withdrawn in sequence. The piece of sheet stock is provided with adhesive means on one surface to attach the device to the inside  
10 of the dispenser wall through which the tissue sheets are normally dispensed.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Interfolded facial tissues are commonly sold in rectangular paperboard cartons having an elongate removable section in the top wall of the carton, which section is detached by the user to provide an aperture through which the tissues may be sequentially dispensed. A large proportion of regular users, however, prefer to utilize a permanent dispenser in which either the full carton, or a portion of the tissue stack from the carton, is inserted.  
20 Such dispensers usually comprise a metal or rigid plastic box of substantially the same size and shape as the paperboard carton, with a dispensing opening in the top wall. Either the top or bottom wall is removable to facilitate insertion of a stack of tissues. While these dispensers perform reasonably well for most dispensing purposes, there are times when, for one reason or another, the sequential dispensing action is interrupted. Such interruptions are undesirable and may be a source of irritation to the users. For example, it is often found that the edges of the opening in permanent dispensers are relatively  
30 sharp, or they may be rough and unfinished. Such edges often cause the tissues to snag and tear. In other cases, the openings may be either too large or too small to properly control the

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dispensing action. If too large, more than one tissue at a time may be dispensed, or the following tissue may fall back into the dispenser and be difficult to retrieve. If too small, the sequential dispensing may be interrupted when the following tissue catches on the edge of the rigid opening causing it to tear or fall back into the interior of the dispenser.

The device of the present invention is designed to solve most of these problems.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

10           The device of this invention comprises an oblong sheet of relatively stiff sheet material such as paperboard, or high density plastic, having an elongate aperture cut out of its central portion. This aperture is bridged by thin, flexible plastic film attached to one side of the sheet material and having a slit, or a line of perforations, extending longitudinally of, and being centrally disposed with respect to the elongate aperture in the sheet stock. One face of the rectangular sheet stock is provided with areas of pressure sensitive adhesive or similar attachment means. The device is intended to be placed on the  
20   inner side of the dispensing wall in permanent dispensers. The pressure sensitive adhesive serves to hold the device in place against the underside of that wall. To use the device the dispenser is opened, or the cover of the dispenser is removed, and the sheet device is then aligned with the opening in the dispensing wall of the dispenser and adhered thereto with the opening and the aperture substantially congruent. A stack of tissues is then placed in the dispenser and the leading tissue sheet threaded through the slit in the thin plastic film, and the dispenser closed, or the cover replaced. The tissues may  
30   then be dispensed through the slit in the plastic film. The film flexes upwardly as each tissue is removed to provide a smooth uninterrupted action, the film serving to insulate

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the tissues from contact with the normal stiff or rough edges of the original dispenser opening.

It is the principle object of this invention, therefore, to provide a device for attachment to the inside of the dispensing wall in permanent-type tissue dispensers, to improve and assist in the dispensing action.

Another object is to provide a device adapted for attachment to permanent-type tissue dispensers in which the latter may have an access opening in one wall normally unsuited  
10 for sequential dispensing of interfolded tissues, which device will serve to modify the dispenser opening so that it is suitable for sequential dispensing of interfolded tissues.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent by reference to the following specification and accompanying drawing wherein there is described and illustrated various forms of this invention.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGURE 1 is a plan view of one form of the device of this invention.

20 FIGURE 2 is a section taken thru line 2--2 of FIG. 1.

FIGURE 3 is a sectional view similar to FIG. 2, showing a slightly modified device.

FIGURE 4 is a perspective view of a tissue dispenser with one portion partially cut away to show the FIG. 1 device installed therein.

FIGURE 5 is a perspective view of another tissue dispenser having a larger dispensing opening and showing the FIG. 3 device in place.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

30 In the view of the device shown in FIG. 1, 12 indicates a rectangular piece of stiff sheet stock, such as cardboard or rigid plastic, having an elongate aperture 14 cut into a central

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portion thereof. Aperture 14 is bridged-over by a thin sheet of flexible plastic film 16 adhered to sheet stock 12 by lines of adhesive 17 and 18, adjacent aperture 14. A longitudinal slit defined by a line of perforations 15 extends the full length of the plastic film 16 and is positioned substantially centrally of aperture 14. Lines of pressure sensitive adhesive 19, or the like, are disposed adjacent each of the longitudinal edges of the sheet stock 14, and are covered by a protective removable strip 20.

10                   FIG. 2 is a sectional view taken along line 2--2 with like numbers identifying like structures.

FIG. 3 is similar to FIG. 2 except that the pressure sensitive adhesive areas 19a, covered by protective strips 20a, are disposed on the side of sheet stock 20a opposite from the side where the strip of thin plastic film 16a, with its central slot 15a, is attached.

FIG. 4 illustrates a permanent-type dispenser 22 of rigid material having an elongate dispensing opening 23 provided in the central portion of top dispenser wall 24. One corner of the dispenser is cut away to show the device of FIG. 1 installed in the dispenser ready for operation. Protective strip 20 (not shown in FIG. 4) has been peeled from the pressure sensitive adhesive 19 and the device pressed against the bottom of wall 24 where adhesive 19 holds the sheet stock 12 in place. Aperture 14 is positioned in congruence with opening 23 of the dispenser. Plastic film 16 thus bridges opening 23 as well as aperture 14, and perforated slit 15 is centrally positioned longitudinally of opening 23. A stack of interfolded tissues 25 is shown in position in dispenser 22 from where the individual tissues may be sequentially dispensed thru slit 15. When slit 15 is of the perforated construction as shown, it first must be broken open and the leading tissue in the stack threaded therethrough to

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start dispensing. It is understood, of course, that slit 15 may be continuous, rather than perforated, and may extend either partially along, or the full length of, aperture 14.

When tissues are dispensed thru slit 15, the flexible lips, provided on either side of slit 15 by the thin film, flex upwardly, keeping the tissue out of contact with the rigid edges of the dispenser material forming opening 23. The smooth under-surface of the upwardly flexed plastic film provides reduced frictional resistance to the passage of the tissues therethrough, and the overall effect is of smoother, quieter operation. The slight pressure exerted by the sides of the slit against the tissue also serves to hold the following tissue in place, ready to be pulled out when needed.

In FIG. 5, another form of permanent dispenser 27 is shown, having a much larger access opening 28 in the top wall. The FIG. 3 modification of the device is shown in place in the opening at 29. In this arrangement the thin flexible film 16a is located beneath the stiff sheet stock 12a. The dispenser is shown with a tissue 30 threaded thru slit 15a, with film 16a flexed upwardly in the position it assumes as tissue 30 is withdrawn.

While the outer dimensions of the device in FIG. 4 are shown as being substantially the same width and length as the top wall of the dispenser, it will be seen that these dimensions can be of less width and/or length and still perform its function as long as it is placed correctly with respect to the permanent opening in the dispenser, and held in its proper place by the pressure sensitive adhesive means.

The device is also suited for use with recessed wall-type dispensers, since it can be easily attached to the back of the wall plate of the dispenser when the plate is removed to replenish the supply of tissues.

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The pressure-sensitive adhesive is shown as extending parallel to the slit near each of the longitudinal sides, but the location, amount and disposition of the pressure-sensitive adhesive areas can be changed to fit particular needs. In the same manner the adhesive holding the plastic film in place may extend around the entire aperture instead of merely being parallel to each of the long sides as shown.

10 With this insert device available, it no longer is necessary for the interfolded tissues to be packaged in the relatively expensive paperboard dispensers now in common use.

For use with this device, tissue stacks may be packaged in a plain paper wrapper, or may even be band-wrapped. Each of these wrappers may optionally have a pre-cut opening adjacent the top side of the stack, in which case it is not necessary to remove the wrapper before or after insertion in the dispenser. The economical advantages in using such light-weight wrappers will become immediately apparent.

20 The weight of the sheet stock used for the device is not critical but it should be of such weight and thickness as to readily retain its shape.

The thin, flexible film should be of a type and thickness that flexes readily. The invention is not limited to a particular type of film, but polyethylene of a thickness of one to five mils has been found to function effectively. Other films with similar characteristics may be used.

The film may be either clear or opaque and may be of any selected color.

30 In the drawings, the slit is shown as a perforated line of weakening in the film which may be broken open by the user. While this modification lends itself to more efficient and economical manufacture in that only a single sheet of film need be handled by the fabricating equipment, the slit may be

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cut completely through, or may also be formed by two juxtaposed sheets of film.

While several preferred embodiments of the invention have been shown and described herein, it will be appreciated that the details may be modified in many ways without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A device for insertion in permanent-type dispensers for interfolded tissues which comprises an oblong piece of rigid sheet stock having an elongate aperture disposed in the central portion thereof, a sheet of thin, flexible film secured to one side of said sheet stock and bridging said aperture, a slit in said film extending longitudinally and centrally thereof, and pressure sensitive adhesive attachment means disposed on one face of said sheet stock.

2. The device of Claim 1 in which said sheet stock is paperboard.

3. The device of Claim 1 in which said sheet stock is rigid plastic.

4. The device of Claim 1 in which said slit comprises spaced perforations.

5. The device of Claim 1 in which said film comprises polyethylene with a thickness of from one to five mils.

6. The device of Claim 1 in which said pressure sensitive adhesive is covered by a removable protective strip.

7. The device of Claim 1 in which said pressure sensitive adhesive is disposed on the same face of said sheet stock as said film.

8. The device of Claim 1 in which said pressure sensitive adhesive is disposed on the opposite face of said sheet stock as said film.

9. The device of Claim 1 in which said sheet stock is rectangular.

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10. In combination, a rectangular dispensing container of the permanent type with an elongate dispensing opening in one wall thereof, a stack of interfolded tissues disposed therein, and a device to aid dispensing interposed between said stack and said wall; said device comprising an oblong piece of rigid sheet stock having an elongate aperture disposed in the central portion thereof, a sheet of thin, flexible film secured to one side of said sheet stock and bridging said aperture, and a slit in said film extending longitudinally and centrally thereof; said device being adhesively attached to the inside of said wall with said dispensing opening and said elongate aperture disposed in congruence.

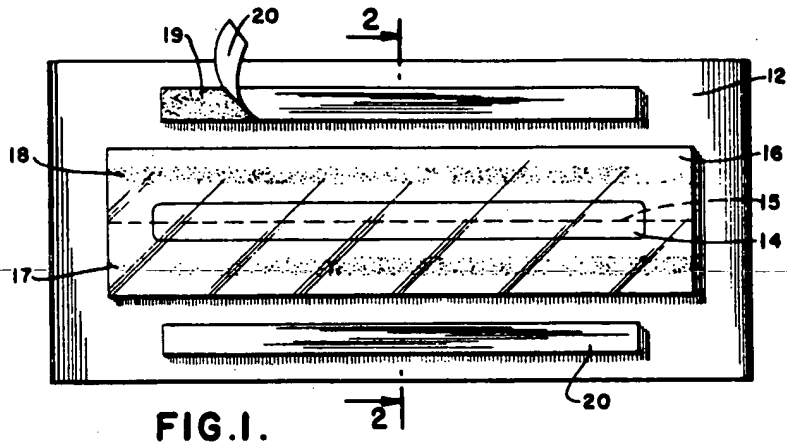


FIG. 1.

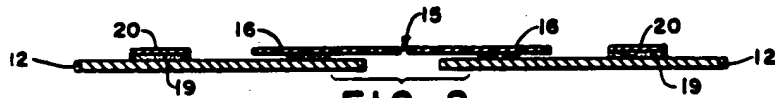


FIG. 2.

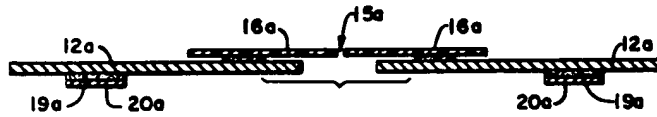


FIG. 3.

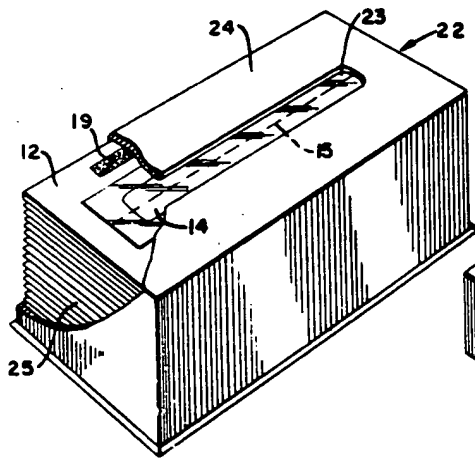


FIG. 4.

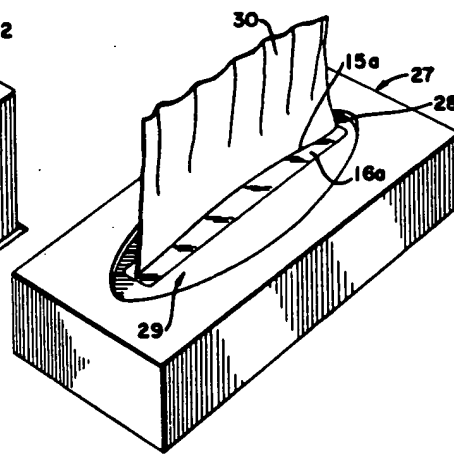


FIG. 5.